

A1 This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent application number 09/611,690, filed July 7, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/142,846, filed July 7, 1999 entitled "Retracting Tape Guide Mechanism For Tape Dispensers", and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/142,847, filed July 7, 1999, entitled "Blade Lifting Mechanism For Tape Dispensers".

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as indicated below:

Please delete Claim 1 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

3. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 2, further comprising an actuator connected to the cutting blade for actuating the cutting blade to cut dispensed material.

4. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 2, wherein the mechanical linkage comprises a cam for coming the cutting blade to the inoperable position.

A2 5. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 4, wherein the cutting blade is spring loaded and the cam cams the cutting blade against spring bias.

6. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 4, further comprising an actuator connected to the cutting blade for actuating the cutting blade to cut dispensed material, wherein the cam includes at least one cam lobe which contacts the actuator.

7. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 4, wherein the mechanical linkage comprises an operating lever with an arm cantilevered therefrom, and a link pivotally connecting the operating lever to the cam.

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8. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 7, wherein the link is pivotally connected at one end to the arm, and is pivotally connected to the cam at an opposite end, the link transferring pivotal movement from the operating lever to the cam.

9. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 7, wherein the cam comprises a cam arm fixedly connected to the cam, the link being pivotally connected to the cam arm to rotate the cam relative to the cutting blade.

10. (New) The dispenser according to Claim 7, wherein when the cutting blade is in the inoperable position, the operating lever is in a vertical position.

11. (New) The dispenser according to claim 10, wherein when in the vertical position, the operating lever blocks a top cover from returning to a closed position.

12. (New) The dispenser according to claim 10, wherein when in the vertical position, the operating lever causes a magnetic interlock to be open.

13. (New) A tape dispensing apparatus comprising;

a frame:

a cutting blade movably connected to the frame for cutting tape dispensed from the dispensing apparatus;

a roller movably connected to the frame to move relative to the frame;

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a mechanical linkage movably connected to the cutting blade for moving the cutting blade relative to the frame between an operable position and an inoperable position;

wherein the mechanical linkage is movably connected to the roller so that when the mechanical linkage moves the cutting blade to the inoperable position, the roller is moved by the mechanical linkage to contact tape in the apparatus.

14. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein when in the inoperable position, the cutting blade provides an operator access in the frame to clear material jams.

15. (New) A method for dispensing tape from a tape dispensing apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the apparatus with a cutting blade, the cutting blade moved in the tape dispensing apparatus by an actuator for cutting tape dispensed by the tape dispensing apparatus;

providing the apparatus with a mechanical linkage connected to the cutting blade for moving the cutting blade between an operable position and an inoperable position;

operating the mechanical linkage to move the cutting blade from the operable position to the inoperable position;